Loans by National Fisheries Development Board

1812. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are forming a National Fisheries Development Board;

(b) in what manner this would help the deep-sea fisheries;

(c) whether loans would be given by the Board to people to buy boats;

(d) the period of loan for such purchases; and

(e) the interest to be charged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) A National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001 to bring the major activities relating to fisheries and aquaculture for focused attention and professional management. The Board will, in the initial years, take up only such activities which will bring about fairly immediate results in production, marketing and improvement of infrastructure although there is provision for tuna processing through equity participation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question do not arise.

Shortage in Foodgrain Production

1813. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrain production is expected to be higher by 5.01 per cent at 208.30 million tonnes in 2005-06;

(b) whether it is also a fact that overall foodgrain output in 2005-06 fell short of the target of 215 million tonnes;

(c) it so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether this is the consecutive second year when the foodgrain production fell short of the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) As per the 4th Advance Estimates

released on 15th July, 2006, the production of foodgrains stands at 208.30 million tonnes during 2005-06 as compared to 198.36 million tonnes in 2004-05, showing an increase of 5.01 per cent.

The estimated production of foodgrains at 208.30 million tonnes in 2005-06 is less than the target of 215.00 million tonnes due to deficient rains and abnormal rise in temperature in February, 2006 in some major growing States. As against the target of 225.10 million tonnes of foodgrains production during 2004-05, actual production was 198.36 million tonnes.

Growth Rate of Rice and Wheat

1814. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of rice and wheat in the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is showing a downward trend;

(c) the names of the States where this trend is upward during these years; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take for enhancing the growth rate of rice and wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Following table shows the growth rates of rice and wheat at the all India level in the years 2003-04 to 2005-06;

Crop	Growth Rate of Production (%)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Rice	23.3	-6.1	9.5
Wheat	9.7	-4.9	1.2

The growth rates of prodcution of both rice and wheat declined during 2004-05, the year in which rainfall was 13% less than the normal.

(c) The names of the States where the trend of growth rates of production of rice and wheat for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 is upward are given in the Statement (*See* below)